

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for electronic ticket recognition and acceptance, comprising the steps of:

facilitating a purchase of an electronic ticket from a networked ticketing computer;

downloading the electronic ticket to a portable computing device having a data output;

enabling activation of the electronic ticket to communicate the electronic ticket via the data output, wherein the electronic ticket is optically communicated to a ticket receiving unit.

2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of using a video display output as a data output.

3. A method as in claim 2, further comprising the step of displaying the electronic ticket on the video display output in the visual form of a bar code that is optically scannable by a ticket receiving unit.

4. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of downloading the electronic ticket to the portable computing device using a wireless communication link.

5. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of downloading the electronic ticket to the portable computing device using a wireless modem.
6. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of purchasing the electronic ticket from the networked ticket computer via the Internet.
7. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of optically communicating the electronic ticket to the ticket receiving unit using an infrared communication link.
8. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of applying security features to the electronic ticket in order to avoid ticket counterfeiting.
9. A method for electronic ticket recognition and acceptance for a ticketed event, comprising the steps of:
 - facilitating a purchase of an electronic ticket from a networked ticketing computer;
 - enabling downloading of the electronic ticket to a portable computing device having a visual display output;
 - accepting the electronic ticket by optical communication with a ticket receiving unit; and
 - providing entry to the ticketed event after the electronic ticket has been accepted.

10. A method as in claim 9, wherein the accepting step further comprises the step of activating the electronic ticket by displaying the electronic ticket on the visual display output.

11. A method as in claim 9, wherein the activating step further comprises the step of activating the electronic ticket via a visual symbol.

12. A method as in claim 9, further comprising the step of displaying the electronic ticket on the display output with a bar code that is optically scannable by a ticket receiving unit.

13. A method for electronic ticket recognition and acceptance at a ticketed event, comprising the steps of:

facilitating purchasing of an electronic ticket from a networked ticketing computer;

downloading the electronic ticket to a portable computing device having a display output;

accepting the electronic ticket by optical communication with a ticket receiving unit;

providing amenities to a ticket user based on the accepted ticket.